

A new *Batricavus* species from East Malaysia (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae)

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A new *Batricavus* species from East Malaysia (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae). - *Batricavus cornutus* sp. nov., from the Kinabalu National Park, Borneo, is described and illustrated. The species can be readily separated by its conspicuous horn-like projections on the frons and enlarged antennomeres VI, that provide means for unambiguous distinction. The previous identification key is modified to accommodate the new species.

Keywords: Coleoptera - taxonomy - new species - Kinabalu National Park - Borneo.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Batricavus* Yin & Li (in Yin *et al.*, 2011) currently contains three species, all known from China: *B. tibialis* Yin & Li, 2011 (type species) from Zhejiang and Guangdong, and *B. abdominalis* Yin & Li, 2012 and *B. hainanensis* Yin & Li, 2012 from the Hainan Island. Members of the genus were found in sifted leaf litter in various types of forests. They have a pair of distinctive fovea-like pits near the anterior pronotal margin, present in both sexes. The feature is unique, and combined with the habitus that provides means for ready separation of *Batricavus* from all other batrisite genera (Yin *et al.*, 2011; Yin & Li, 2012).

A recently studied Bornean Batrisini species shares with *Batricavus* the presence of the anterior pronotal pits and most of other diagnostic characters, and is therefore considered congeneric. However, it differs drastically by conspicuous frontal horns and modified antennomeres VI, both possibly male sexual features. We describe the new species, provide illustrations of its habitus, and of relevant diagnostic characters, and give a modified key to species.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The type material is housed in the Muséum d'histoire naturelle de la Ville de Genève, Switzerland (Giulio Cuccodoro, MHNG).

The collection data of the material referred to are quoted verbatim. A slash is used to separate different labels and additional notes are given in square brackets. Measurements are in millimeters.

The following abbreviations are used: AL – length of the abdomen along the midline; AW – maximum width of the abdomen; EL – length of the elytra along the sutural line; EW – maximum width of the elytra; HL – length of the head from the anterior clypeal margin to the occipital constriction; HW – width of the head across eyes; PL – length of the pronotum along the midline; PW – maximum width of the pronotum. The length of the body is combined HL + PL + EL + AL.

DESCRIPTION

Batricavus cornutus sp. nov.

Fig. 1

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype, Malaysia, ♂, labeled ‘Sabah, Mt. Kinabalu, 7500 ft. [≈2315 m], 22.26.vi.68, R.W. Taylor / HOLOTYPE [red], ♂, *Batricavus cornutus* sp. n., det. Yin & Löbl, 2013, MHNG’.

DESCRIPTION: Male (Fig. 1A). Length 1.82 mm; body and appendages reddish brown, maxillary palpi and tarsi lighter. Head slightly wider than long, HL 0.36 mm, HW 0.41 mm. Eyes each composed of about 25 facets. Antennomeres VI (Fig. 1B) greatly enlarged, anterior half of mesal surface with large cavity; clubs three-segmented, with enlarged antennomeres IX-XI. Pronotum rounded laterally, slightly wider than long, PL 0.40 mm, PW 0.42 mm. Elytra wider than long, EL 0.61 mm, EW 0.71 mm; discal striae reaching almost apical margins of elytra. Mesotibiae (Fig. 1C) with distinct apical spur. Abdomen smaller than elytra, AL 0.45 mm, AW 0.62 mm. Aedeagus (Figs 1D-1E), length 0.33 mm, weakly sclerotized, with elongate, twisted median and dorsal lobes.

FEMALE: Unknown.

COMPARATIVE NOTES: *Batricavus cornutus* is a very distinctive species. It may be readily separated from congeners by the conspicuously protruding anterior margin of the frons, and by the enlarged antennomeres VI with a large mesal cavity.

DISTRIBUTION: East Malaysia: Sabah.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific epithet ‘*cornutus*’ means ‘having horns, horned’, referring to the strongly protruding anterior margin of the frons.

Revised key to male *Batricavus*

- 1a Anterior margin of frons conspicuously protruding anteriorly to form two horn-like projections (Fig. 1A); antennomeres VI greatly enlarged, with large mesal cavity (Fig. 1B). (East Malaysia: Sabah) . *B. cornutus* sp. nov.
- 1b Frons simple, without modification; antennomeres VI not enlarged 2
- 2a Protibiae simple; metafemora near apical fourth broadened mesally (Yin & Li, 2012: 37, fig. 2B); tergite IV with large median cavity (Yin & Li, 2012: 37, fig. 2A). (South China: Hainan) *B. abdominalis* Yin & Li
- 2b Protibiae expanded laterally, either at apical fourth (Yin *et al.*, 2011: 4, fig. 8) or near middle (Yin & Li, 2012: 38, fig. 3A); metafemora and tergite IV simple 3
- 3a Antennomeres VIII much larger than VII (Yin *et al.*, 2011: 4, fig. 6); apical fourth of protibiae expanded laterally and angular (Yin *et al.*, 2011: 4, fig. 8). (South China: Guangdong; East China: Zhejiang) *B. tibialis* Yin & Li

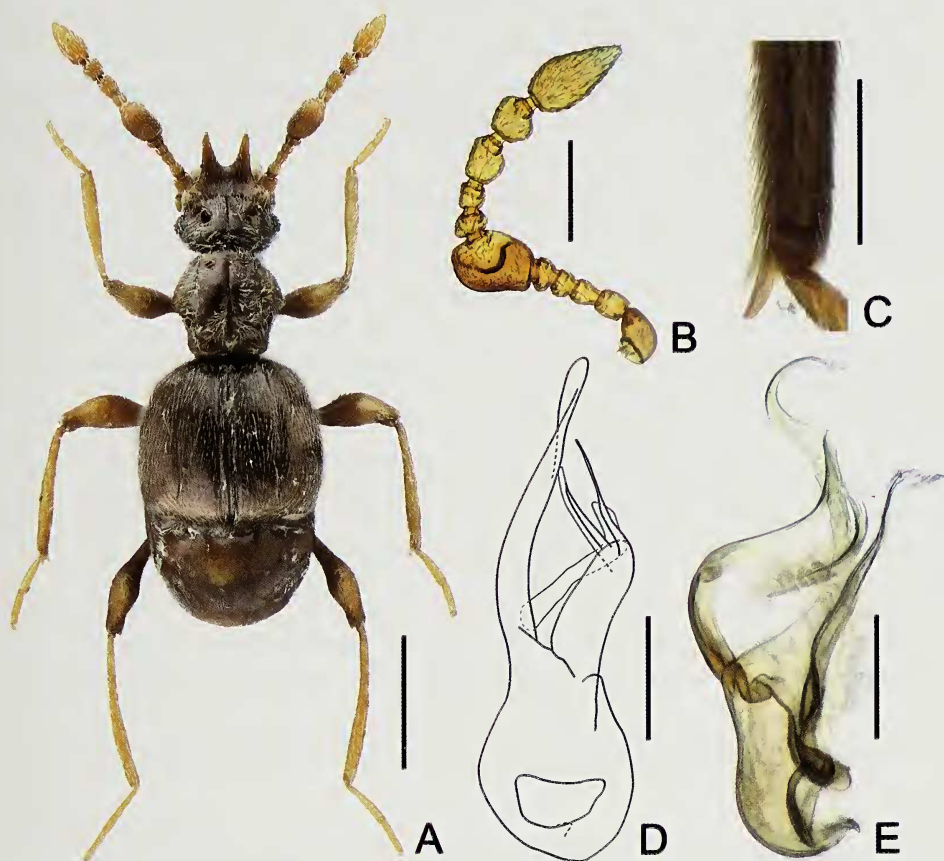


FIG. 1

Batricavus cornutus. (A) Male habitus. (B) Left antenna. (C) Apical portion of mesotibia. (D) Aedeagus, in dorsal view. (E) Same, in lateral view. Scales (mm): A = 0.5, B = 0.2, C, D, E = 0.1 mm.

- 3a Antennomeres VIII distinctly smaller than VII (Yin & Li, 2012: 36, fig. 1B); protibiae expanded laterally near middle and angular (Yin & Li, 2012: 38, fig. 3A). (South China: Hainan) *B. hainanensis* Yin & Li

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